

From: Thomas, Hattie
Sent: Thur 10/17/2013 9:47:50 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 10/17/13

OPA Daily Digest for 10/17/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) 9/25/13. Constituent concerns about property that they own considered as an abandoned hazardous waste site. Due: 10/9/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) 9/23/13. Subcontractor complaints of payments not received for work done for lead removal at North County Schools in St. Francois County. Due: 10/9/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Billy Long (Mo.) 9/17/13. Subcontractor complaints of payments not received for work done on the Oronogo remediation project. Due: 10/2/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 10/17/13: Questions about recent and upcoming environmental sampling activity at West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis – Grant Bissell - 10/17/13: Questions about recent and upcoming environmental sampling activity at West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Webb City (Mo.) Sentinel – Bob Foos – 10/17/13: Questions about reports of a contractor stopping work at an EPA Superfund site in the Joplin area because of disputes with suppliers or subcontractors. Contacts: Debbie Kring, 7725; Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KCTV Channel 5, Kansas City – Justin Schmitt – 10/17/13: Questions about numbers of EPA Region 7 personnel who were furloughed and declared essential during the federal government shutdown. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KSHB Channel 41, Kansas City – Jadianne Thompson – 10/17/13: Interview with EPA Region 7 Superfund employee Bill Gresham about worker's perspective on the federal government shutdown. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Kansas City Business Journal - HDR Constructors helps turn manure, organic waste into natural gas - 10/17/13 - HDR Constructors Inc., a Kansas City-based subsidiary of Omaha engineering, construction and architecture firm HDR Inc., is designing and building an "anaerobic digester" facility — a plant that turns organic waste into viable natural gas.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2013/10/17/kc-hdr-constructors-waste-into-gas-colo.html>

MDNR (release) - Missouri Department of Natural Resources to hold public meeting on Greene County landfills - 10/17/13 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources will hold an informational meeting on Thursday, Nov. 7, on proposed coal ash landfills in Greene County.
<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODNR/bulletins/9017fb>

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Furloughed Employees Head Back To Work, But Worries Remain - 10/17/13 - It's over. The federal government reopened Thursday, after Congress passed legislation to fund the government hours before the country was set to lose its borrowing authority. But there is a catch.
<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2013/10/17/furloughed-employees-head-back-to-work-but-worries-remain/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Doe Run workers to be cut at end of December - 10/16/13 - About 145 employees of the Doe Run lead smelter have learned they will lose their jobs at the end of December because of the plant's closure, the Doe Run Co. said Wednesday. An additional 73 contractor jobs also will be eliminated. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/about-doe-run-workers-to-be-cut-at-end-of/article_56182c9f-0413-59a5-865e-e864715f3c2d.html

St. Louis Business Journal - More than 200 jobs to be cut as Doe Run closes plant - 9/17/13 -

About 145 Doe Run employees and 73 contractors will lose their jobs at the end of December when the company shuts down its lead smelter in Herculaneum.

http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2013/10/more-than-200-jobs-to-be-cut-as-doe.html

Des Moines Register - State panel rejects proposed clean water rules | In denying environmental groups' petition, it says current efforts need chance to work - 10/14/13 - Two environmental groups say they're disappointed a state commission on Monday rejected proposed rules they say would make Iowa lakes cleaner and safer for swimming.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20131015/NEWS10/310150055/State-panel-rejects-proposed-clean-water-rules>

Sioux City Journal (S.D.) - Iowa board votes down standards for nutrients in lakes - 10/14/13 - The state Environmental Protection Commission won't require a numerical standard for nutrient content in the state's lakes. http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/iowa-board-votes-down-standards-for-nutrients-in-lakes/article_38ddfc3c-a49a-5269-9b89-ef252208b626.html

Muscatine (Iowa) Journal - Iowa's wetlands are an asset - 10/16/13 - When given a choice between marginally productive farmland that requires significant input with little return and wetlands, wetlands are the obvious choice. It really is a win-win for the environment, agriculture and all Iowans.

http://muscatinejournal.com/news/opinion/columns/iowa-s-wetlands-are-an-asset/article_d1a89433-d512-564e-95c2-430a336e4871.html

Radio Iowa - Commission rejects plan for stricter water quality standards for Iowa lakes - 10/14/13 -

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) today rejected a call for enacting stricter water quality standards for 159 Iowa lakes. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2013/10/14/commission-rejects-plan-for-stricter-water-quality-standards-for-iowa-lakes/>

Des Moines Register - Environmental commission denies request for stricter water quality rules for Iowa lakes - 10/14/13 - The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission today denied a request to set stricter standards for the water quality of Iowa lakes at a meeting in Des Moines today.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20131014/BUSINESS01/131014017/Environmental-commission-denies-request-stricter-water-quality-rules-iowa-lakes>

KMOX Radio - Bridgeton Landfill Fire Heats Up Race for County Executive - 10/17/13 - It's a landfill fire near a radioactive dump that could worry thousands of voters in north county — and the man who wants to unseat Charlie Dooley is making it an issue in the race for County Executive.

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2013/10/17/bridgeton-landfill-fire-heats-up-race-for-county-executive/>

Associated Press - Koster joins call for EPA to begin Bridgeton landfill testing halted by federal shutdown - 10/16/13 - Missouri's attorney general has joined the call for federal regulators to proceed with required testing at a north St. Louis County landfill that's been halted by the government shutdown. <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/3b15701f0a1f4d83a103984a9e92aa94/MO--Bridgeton-Landfill>

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Chris Koster requests EPA resume West Lake Landfill testing (video) - 10/15/13 - With the federal government shutdown ceasing work at West Lake Landfill, Missouri Attorney General has stepped in to help get things back on track. <http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/402800/3/Mo-Attorney-General-asks-EPA-to-resume-West-Lake-Landfill-tests>

KMOV Ch. 5 St. Louis - Missouri's attorney general calls for EPA testing of local landfills - 10/14/13 - The government shutdown is holding up safety work at a pair of Bridgeton landfills and the State Attorney General is now saying it's essential for the federal inspectors to return to the site to protect the public and environment. <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Govt-shutdown-holds-up-EPA-safety-work-at-two-local-landfills--228086511.html>

Hazelwood Patch (Mo.) - Government Shutdown Stalls West Lake Landfill Tests, Odor Controlling Work Continues - 10/15/13 - The EPA can't do much at the landfill sites until the federal government reopens. Republic is moving forward with its action plan that includes odor controlling systems. <http://hazelwood.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/government-shutdown-stalls-west-lake-landfill-tests>

St. Louis Public Radio - Koster Asks EPA To Do Testing At Westlake Landfill Despite Shutdown - 10/15/13 - Attorney General Chris Koster has asked the federal Environmental Protection Agency to conduct radioactivity tests at the Westlake landfill in Bridgeton that were delayed because of the government shutdown. <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/koster-asks-epa-do-testing-westlake-landfill-despite-shutdown>

Legal Newsline Legal Journal - Koster asks EPA to reconsider Westlake Landfill decision - 10/16/13 - Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster sent a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tuesday asking the federal agency to reconsider its decision regarding Westlake Landfill. <http://legalnewsline.com/news/244838-koster-asks-epa-to-reconsider-westlake-landfill-decision>

Missouri Attorney General (release) - Attorney General Koster calls upon EPA to resume work at Westlake Landfill - 10/16/13 - Preliminary EPA testing necessary to start work on the proposed isolation barrier has been halted due to government shutdown. http://ago.mo.gov/newsreleases/2013/AG_Koster_calls_EPA_to_resume_work_Westlake_Landfill/

Iowa Farmer Today - Environmental panel approves hog expansions - 10/16/13 - "It's on to court," says an attorney for opponents of a rural Center Point 4,160-head hog confinement operation. The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission Monday unanimously approved the application from Matt Ditch, doing business as CP3 Farms LLC, despite concerns raised by the Linn County Board of Supervisors and Ditch's neighbors. http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/news/livestock/environmental-panel-approves-hog-expansions/article_f03f92fc-368e-11e3-9dfd-0019bb2963f4.html

KCAU-TV Ch. 9 Sioux City, Iowa - Upper Iowa Prairie Pothole Partnership Receives \$1 Million Grant - 10/16/13 - The Upper Iowa Prairie Pothole Partnership has received a \$1 million grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to clean up the Marble Hottes Wetland Complex in Spirit Lake, Iowa. The lakes are dirty and full of pollution and in desperate need to be restored. <http://www.kcautv.com/story/23710589/upper-iowa-prairie-pothole-partnership-receives-1-million-grant>

Des Moines Register - Editorial: Farmers already dealing with climate change - 10/16/13 - Food scientists toil in their laboratories for years on a breakthrough, but farmers in the real world must deal with the realities on the ground every day. The challenge is getting that science into the fields in a way that serves those farmers' needs. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20131017/OPINION03/310170031/1035/>

Lincoln Journal Star (Neb.) - Pending EPA move sets off ethanol alarm - 10/12/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency is considering rolling back the Renewable Fuels Standard, a move that could threaten the vitality of Nebraska's ethanol industry. The unprecedented strategy surfaced Friday in internal EPA documents. http://journalstar.com/news/local/pending-epa-move-sets-off-ethanol-alarm/article_d7ffc956-596f-56ed-9ad9-9a14b1bbfe32.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Uncertainty clouds Ameren solar rebate program - 10/16/13 - A request by Missouri's largest utility to curtail payment of millions of dollars in solar rebates is clouding the future of a popular program that's helping make alternative energy systems more affordable for local consumers. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/uncertainty-clouds-ameren-solar-rebate-program/article_136c693b-3d72-5322-93f7-b512ef58249c.html

Omaha World-Herald - Editorial: Nuke waste can't wait - 10/16/13 - Among the ways the federal government has failed to do its job, this one could last for centuries. Under federal law, the U.S. Department of Energy is supposed to develop a disposal facility to handle spent fuel from the nation's 104 nuclear reactors. <http://www.jaystoday.com/article/20131016/NEWS08/131019124>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Uneven enforcement suspected at nuclear plants - 10/15/13 - The number of safety violations at U.S. nuclear power plants varies dramatically from region to region, pointing to inconsistent enforcement in an industry now operating mostly beyond its original 40-year licenses, according to a congressional study awaiting release. <http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/uneven->

[enforcement-suspected-at-nuclear-plants/article_5cac7a7c-2783-5d49-b61b-138aa5467eba.html](http://www.kansascity.com/2013/10/07/4538488/court-to-sunflower-coal-plant.html)

Kansas City - Editorial: Court to Sunflower coal-fired power plant: Protect Kansans' air - 10/7/13 - Supporters of clean air in Kansas want Sunflower and state agencies charged with oversight of the environment to make sure strict rules are followed when it comes to toxic emissions. That's a reasonable request. By trying to get around those regulations, however, backers of the coal-fired plant have created their problems and must live with the consequences.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/10/07/4538488/court-to-sunflower-coal-plant.html>

Kansas City Star - Kansas Supreme Court reverses permit granted to Sunflower coal plant - 10/4/13 - The court's unanimous ruling reversed a state agency's decision to grant a permit to the Sunflower Electric Power Corp. in December 2010 and remanded it back to the agency for reconsideration. <http://www.kansascity.com/2013/10/04/4528805/kansas-supreme-court-reverses.html>

EnergyBiz - Kansas High Court Case Cast Coal's Future in a New Light - 10/7/13 - An interesting case is creating potentially unbearable headwinds for a Kansas-based coal plant. There, the state's supreme court just reversed a state environmental ruling that had issued an air permit. The judges sent the case back to regulators, noting that consideration must be given to federal laws and proposals.

<http://www.energybiz.com/article/13/10/kansas-high-court-case-cast-coal-s-future-new-light>

Wichita Eagle (Kan.) Editorial: Holcomb power plant unlikely - 10/7/13 - With each year, legal setback, and change in the energy marketplace, it gets harder to envision another coal-fired power plant being built in western Kansas. <http://www.kansas.com/2013/10/09/3047617/eagle-editorial-holcomb-power.html>

Environmental News Service - Kansas Supreme Court Reverses Holcomb Coal Plant Air Permit - 10/7/13 - The Kansas Supreme Court Friday invalidated the 2010 air pollution permit granted to Sunflower Electric Power Corp. by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. <http://ens-newswire.com/2013/10/07/kansas-supreme-court-reverses-holcomb-coal-plant-air-permit/>

Hays Daily News - Sunflower will 'respect' court's decision - 10/6/13 - Friday's Kansas Supreme Court decision invalidating Sunflower Electric's permit to build a coal-fired power plant near Holcomb delighted environmental groups. Hays-based Sunflower Electric, however, wasn't quite as thrilled, but said it would return its focus back to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, which is responsible for issuing the permit. <http://hdnews.net/news/sunflower100613>

KCRG Ch. 2 Cedar Rapids, Iowa - 10/15/13 - Algae Scourge Impairs Iowa Waters (+video) - The greening of Iowa waters is not a hopeful sign to environmentalists. As in years past, many Iowa lakes this summer bloomed a sickly green with algae, some of it toxic, the rest otherwise harmful to the

environment. <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Algae-Scourge--227794971.html>

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Furloughed Employees Head Back To Work, But Worries Remain - 10/17/13 - It's over. The federal government reopened Thursday, after Congress passed legislation to fund the government hours before the country was set to lose its borrowing authority. But there is a catch. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2013/10/17/furloughed-employees-head-back-to-work-but-worries-remain/>

Biofuels Digest - Iowa to use \$250,000 in federal funds for blender pumps - 10/15/13 - In Iowa, Gov. Terry E. Branstad, Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, agriculture Sec. Bill Northey and DOT Director Paul Trombino announced a new biofuels pilot program called "Fueling Our Future," a public-private partnership that aims to assist in expanding the market for mid-level biofuels blends. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2013/10/15/iowa-to-use-250000-in-federal-funds-for-blender-pumps/>

E&E News PM - Ethanol group says 'blend wall' is no excuse for lowering RFS targets - 10/15/13 - An ethanol group today urged U.S. EPA to reject oil industry calls to lower next year's renewable fuel targets, after a draft proposal surfaced last week showing that the agency is considering a steep drop for both conventional ethanol and advanced biofuels. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059988866/feed>

Brownfield Ag News - Iowa encourages more blender pumps - 10/16/13 - The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association is applauding the "Fueling Our Future" biofuels pilot program announced this week by Governor Terry Branstad. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/10/16/iowa-encourages-blender-pumps/>

OilPrice - The Environmental Impact of the Government Shutdown - 10/16/13 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has had to furlough more than 16,000 of its employees—about 93 percent of its staff—due to the government shutdown. It's down to the bare-bone minimum like so many other government agencies. But the longer the shutdown drags on, the longer the health of the environment and the public is at risk. <http://oilprice.com/The-Environment/Global-Warming/The-Environmental-Impact-of-the-Government-Shutdown.html>

New York Times - Supreme Court to Hear Challenge to E.P.A. Rules on Gas Emissions - 10/15/13 - The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear a major case challenging Environmental Protection Agency regulations of greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources like power plants. The justices declined to hear a variety of related attacks on the agency's authority to address climate change. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/16/us/politics/supreme-court-to-hear-challenge-to-epa-emissions-rules.html>

Politico - SCOTUS to take narrow look at EPA climate rules - 10/15/13 - The Supreme Court said

Tuesday that it will look at the EPA's early efforts to craft greenhouse gas regulations, offering critics hope that the justices could imperil the future of President Barack Obama's climate strategy.
<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/10/scotus-to-take-narrow-look-at-epa-climate-rules-98364.html>

Iowa Public Radio - Supreme Court To Weigh EPA Permits For Power Plant Emissions - 10/15/13 - The Supreme Court has agreed to review an Obama administration policy that requires new power plants and other big polluting facilities to apply for permits to emit greenhouse gases.
<http://iowapublicradio.org/post/supreme-court-weigh-epa-permits-power-plant-emissions>

Associated Press - High court will review EPA global warming rules - 9/16/13 - The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to decide whether to block key aspects of the Obama administration's plan aimed at cutting power plant and factory emissions of gases blamed for global warming.
<http://www.kansas.com/2013/10/15/3059705/high-court-will-review-epa-global.html>

NPR - Fuel in the Fire: Burn Wood For Power Or Leave It To Nature (+audio) - 10/16/13 - After a century of having its fires routinely extinguished, the forests are overloaded with fuel. A heated debate has flared up about what to do with that forest fuel. <http://www.npr.org/2013/10/16/234743147/fuel-in-the-fire-burn-wood-for-power-or-leave-it-to-nature>

The Hill (blog) - Boxer: EPA will return to full strength as quickly as possible after shutdown - 10/16/13 - The head of the Senate panel overseeing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said that the agency's chief is committed to restarting its operations as soon as possible once the government shutdown ends. "Knowing Gina McCarthy the way I do, Administrator McCarthy, she will get up and running as fast as she can," Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) said at a press conference on Wednesday. <http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/administration/328845-boxer-epa-will-return-to-full-strength-as-quickly-as-possible-after-shutdown->

Pork Network - Congress urges EPA to not use CWA guidance document - 10/16/13 - Senate Environment & Public Works Committee Ranking Member David Vitter (R-La.) along with several other senators sent a letter on Oct. 3 to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy asking the agency to publically announce they have withdrawn the 2011 draft Clean Water Act (CWA) Guidance document and direct EPA field offices not to utilize the document. www.porknetwork.com/pork-news/latest/Congress-urges-EPA-to-not-use-CWA-guidance-document-228003741.html#sthash.FwHaTvzE.dpuf

Politico - Senate GOP staffers post shutdown top 10 - 10/15/13 - Even with a half-million federal workers on furlough, Republicans on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee say there's a bright side to the government shutdown. The list, which rehashes Republicans' long-time energy and environmental talking points, reserves its harshest criticism for the EPA and even touts agency furloughs. <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/10/senate-gop-epa-closure-98348.html>

Reuters - Analysis: Lawsuits likely as EPA declares US ethanol blend wall a 'reality' - 10/15/13 - With two words, the U.S. environment regulator may be handing oil refiners the biggest win of a long battle to beat back the seemingly inexorable rise of ethanol fuel. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/11/us-ethanol-blendwall-analysis-idUSBRE99A09420131011>

Environmental Defense Fund (release) - EPA's Historic Climate Protections Stand in the Face of Numerous Appeals - 10/15/13 - Today's orders by the U.S. Supreme Court make it abundantly clear, once and for all, that EPA has the both legal authority and the responsibility to address climate change and the carbon pollution that causes it. <http://www.edf.org/media/epas-historic-climate-protections-stand-face-numerous-appeals>

New York Times - Column: This Is Your Brain on Toxins - 10/16/13 - So a question for big chemical companies: Are you really going to follow the model of tobacco and lead and fight regulation every step of the way, once more risking our children's futures? <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/17/opinion/kristof-this-is-your-brain-on-toxins.html>

Planet Ark - US EPA says nothing final on ethanol blend; industry group cries foul - 10/14/13 - Reuters and other news outlets reported on EPA documents that showed the agency proposing an unexpected drop in the amount of corn-based ethanol that would be required for blending next year. <http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/70035>

Biomass Magazine - Supreme Court's review of EPA authority may affect biomass - 10/16/13 - The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review whether or not the Clean Air Act granted the U.S. EPA authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from large, stationary sources—including biomass power plants—as it did for automobiles. <http://www.biomassmagazine.com/articles/9558/supreme-courts-review-of-epa-authority-may-affect-biomass>

Greenwire - EPA critics hope for broad victory on climate rules despite limited cert order - 10/16/13 - The Supreme Court's decision yesterday to review a narrow piece of U.S. EPA's greenhouse gas regulations is being heralded by industry advocates on and off Capitol Hill as the possible first step toward dismantling the whole regime. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059988923/feed>

Greenwire - Reactor regs aren't uniformly enforced -- GAO - 10/16/13 - A government report set to be released soon has found significant variations in how nuclear power plant regulations are enforced across the United States. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059988902/feed>

National Journal - The Supreme Court Case That Could Upend Obama's Climate Agenda - 10/15/13 -

By agreeing to hear a narrowly focused challenge to one portion of the Obama administration's global-warming regulatory agenda, the Supreme Court on Tuesday cast uncertainty on the scope and timing of President Obama's ambitious efforts to fight climate change. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/the-supreme-court-case-that-could-upend-obama-s-climate-agenda-20131015>

USA Today - Climate scientists fight U.S. government shutdown - 10/16/13 - Climate researchers are fighting the U.S. government shutdown with a petition that asks Congress to fund critical work in Antarctica before it's too late this year. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/10/15/climate-scientists-government-shutdown/2989107/>

Greener Ideal - Biotechnology or Agroecology? The Monsanto Debate from Both Sides - 10/17/13 - Fast forward to 2013 and Monsanto's corporate self-image hardly resembles its disconcerting history; now it insists it is one of the good guys, humbly trying to feed the planet and help farmers thrive. <http://www.greenerideal.com/business/1016-monsanto-debate-from-both-sides/>

Christian Science Monitor - Landmark case? Supreme Court to review EPA regulation of greenhouse gases. - 10/15/13 - The Supreme Court said Tuesday it would take up six petitions seeking review of EPA actions regarding greenhouse gases. But it will not take up the agency's so-called endangerment finding. <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2013/1015/Landmark-case-Supreme-Court-to-review-EPA-regulation-of-greenhouse-gases>

Bloomberg - Ethanol's Discount Narrows on Low Inventories, EPA Mandate - 10/16/13 - Ethanol futures advanced against gasoline on low inventories and after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it hasn't decided what to do about the renewable fuel mandate for 2014. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-14/ethanol-rises-against-gasoline-on-low-inventories-epa-mandate.html>

Christian Science Monitor - Forget Solyndra. Clean energy is hot again - 10/16/13 - A number of big institutional investors see risks declining in clean energy and returns that are higher than junk bonds. As a result, clean-energy stocks have soared. Is it too late to get in? <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2013/1016/Forget-Solyndra.-Clean-energy-is-hot-again>

ClimateWire - Energy giant sees 'impressive' GHG reduction from natural gas by 2030 - 10/16/13 - Global energy firm Siemens AG entered the international electricity fuels debate this week by declaring that a wide-scale shift to natural gas for power generation would result in a 5 percent cut in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, or as much as is emitted annually by the 28 countries of the European Union. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059988956/feed>

AgWeb - Powering Down Water - 10/16/13 - Technology is key to managing and reducing the energy

requirements of agricultural irrigation, says David Zoldoske, director for the Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University–Fresno.

http://www.agweb.com/article/powering_down_water_NAA_Nate_Birt/

BN A - 'Urgent Need' for More Carbon Projects To Widen Acceptance of Storage, Report Says -

10/17/13 - Report says there is 'an urgent need' for more carbon capture and storage demonstration projects worldwide to encourage wider acceptance among investors and the general public.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37211990&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2k2w5b9&split=0

BN A - Chemical Industry Develops Guidelines For Coordinating Emergency Response - 10/17/13 -

The chemical industry has developed new guidelines for coordinating with the federal government an effective response to emergency situations.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37211982&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2k2t3e8&split=0

BN A - Petroleum Group Petitions EPA to Reconsider 16.55 Billion Gallon Renewable Fuel Mandate -

10/17/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency should revisit its decision to require petroleum refiners and importers to blend a minimum of 16.55 billion gallons of renewable fuels into the nation's fuel supply in 2013, the American Petroleum Institute said in a petition to the agency.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37211996&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2k2x7b9&split=0

BN A - Iowa Environmental Commission Opts Not to Implement Numeric Nutrient Criteria - 10/17/13 -

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission has decided not to implement numeric water quality criteria to address nutrients in lakes.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37211985&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2k2v2e7&split=0

BN A - Report Shows Slowdown in Energy Efficiency Gains Despite Growing National Policies -

10/17/13 - Global energy efficiency improvements have slowed in recent years despite a growing number of national policies, according to a report released by a United Nations-accredited global energy body.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37259765&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2n1g1x7&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA Plan To Soften Groundwater Cleanup Policy Draws Mixed Reactions - 10/17/13 -

Suggestions last month by EPA's Superfund chief that the agency is considering easing its long-standing policy that favors cleanup of contaminated groundwater to meet strict drinking water standards are receiving mixed reactions. <http://insideepa.com/201310172450031/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-plan-to-soften-groundwater-cleanup-policy-draws-mixed-reactions/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Floats Draft Strategy To Bolster States' Lagging Enforcement Efforts - 10/17/13 -

EPA is floating a draft strategy for bolstering states' lagging enforcement efforts that outlines a range of

options including mid-level talks between states and agency regional officials to removal of a state's delegated authority. <http://insideepa.com/201310172450033/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-floats-draft-strategy-to-bolster-states-lagging-enforcement-efforts/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Industry Renews Challenge To EPA Risk Policy For Waste Units' Permits - 10/16/13 -
A case pending before EPA's Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) is testing the agency's authority to require operators of hazardous waste combustion units to conduct site specific risk assessments (SSRAs). <http://insideepa.com/201310162449901/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/industry-renews-challenge-to-epa-risk-policy-for-waste-units-permits/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Judges Fault EPA, Environmentalists In Suit Over Novel NOx-SOx NAAQS - 10/16/13 -
EPA and environmentalists faced tough questions from appellate court judges at Oct. 10 oral arguments in a suit contesting the agency's decision not to set a novel joint nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur oxides (SOx) air standard. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-10/18/2013/judges-fault-epa-environmentalists-in-suit-over-novel-nox-sox-naaqs/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Critics Weigh Options To Challenge EPA's Final Methanol Risk Estimates - 10/16/13 -
Industry groups are weighing options for challenging EPA's recently released final estimate of the noncancer health risks posed by methanol. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-10/18/2013/critics-weigh-options-to-challenge-epas-final-methanol-risk-estimates/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - RFS Advocates Eye 2014 Policy to Revise Program as Alternative to Bill - 10/16/13 -
Environmental supporters of EPA's renewable fuel standard (RFS) plan to use comments on the agency's pending 2014 RFS proposal as a vehicle to pitch a series of revisions to the program's fuel production targets and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-10/18/2013/rfs-advocates-eye-2014-policy-to-revise-program-as-alternative-to-bill/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Permit Vetoes Draw New Resistance Ahead Of High Court Review - 10/16/13 -
Congressional and other critics of EPA's authority to "veto" projects permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act (CWA) are stepping up their efforts to limit the agency's power ahead of an effort to have the Supreme Court consider the issue later in its current term. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-10/18/2013/epa-permit-vetoes-draw-new-resistance-ahead-of-high-court-review/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Critics Step Up Push To Curtail EPA's Authority To Veto Corps' Permits - 10/16/13 -
Congressional and other critics of EPA's authority to "veto" projects from proceeding at sites permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers are stepping up their efforts to limit the agency's power. <http://insideepa.com/201310162449898/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/critics-step-up-push-to-curtail-epas-authority-to-veto-corps-permits/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Coal Plant's Retirement Despite Upgrades Illustrates Sector's Hurdles - 10/16/13 - The largest coal-fired power plant in New England will retire by 2017 despite \$1 billion in recent upgrades to its pollution controls -- a new illustration of how low natural gas prices, along with other market and regulatory pressures, are making many coal plants uneconomical even after they have been retrofitted to meet new EPA rules. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201310162449895/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/coal-plants-retirement-despite-upgrades-illustrates-sectors-hurdles/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Refiners, Advanced Biofuels Groups Eye Plan To Boost Fuels' RFS Credit - 10/17/13 - Refiners and advanced biofuel groups are seeking consensus on a legislative fix to boost so-called advanced biofuels by ramping up the credit the fuels receive under EPA's renewable fuel standard (RFS), a rare collaboration between the two sectors. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201310172450023/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/refiners-advanced-biofuels-groups-eye-plan-to-boost-fuels-rfs-credit/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Ruling Remanding EPA MACT Method Raises Doubts Over Major Air Rules - 10/15/13 - A federal appeals court ruling remanding to EPA its novel statistical method for setting a maximum achievable control technology (MACT) air toxics rule for sludge incinerators raises doubts over the legal foundation for other major MACTs subject to pending suits, including air toxics rules for boilers and power plants, sources say. <http://insideepa.com/201310152449753/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/ruling-remanding-epa-mact-method-raises-doubts-over-major-air-rules/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Industry Fears Draft EPA Study Could Expand CWA Scrutiny Of Groundwater - 10/15/13 - EPA's draft study for determining whether smaller waters can be regulated due to their "connectivity" to downstream waters includes a focus on groundwater connections to surface water, driving industry fears that the agency may seek to expand its policy for using a groundwater nexus as the basis for regulating smaller, more isolated waters. <http://insideepa.com/201310152449752/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/industry-fears-draft-epa-study-could-expand-cwa-scrutiny-of-groundwater/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

10/29-30/13 - SES National Executive Leadership Development Conference, Washington, DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

11/14/13 – National Association of Farm Broadcasting Trade Talk, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

11/14/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

11/15/13 – R7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

DRA:

10/29-30/13 - SES National Executive Leadership Development Conference - Washington, DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

10/31 –11/1/13 - Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

11/14/13 – National Association of Farm Broadcasting Trade Talk, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

11/1/2013 – EJ Presentation at Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Althea Moses, 7649

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

None

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